

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T STATE 131603

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU GR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ESENBEL REPORTS ON CARAMANLIS-DEMIREL
MEETING OF MAY 31

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN JUNE 4 TO BRIEF HIM ON DEMIREL-CARAMANLIS MEETING IN BRUSSELS MAY 31. ESENBEL NOTED THAT WHILE CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL WERE MEETING TETE-A-TETE, HE AND TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE TALKING IN ADJOINING ROOM. IT WAS IN THIS SIDE MEETING THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA SHOULD GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED, SINCE TO DELAY THEM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT WITH THE ATMOSPHERE OF PROGRESS EMANATING FROM THE GREEK-TURKISH TALKS. FOREIGN MINISTERS ALSO DRAFTED THE COMMUNIQUE.

2. WHEN DEMIREL BRIEFED ESENBEL ON MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS, HE STRESSED ITS FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. CARAMANLIS HAD BEGUN BY COMPLAINING THAT THE SECOND TURKISH MILITARY OPERATION WAS AGAINST HIM AND HIS NEW GOVERNMENT. DEMIREL HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE OPERATION WAS A MILITARY NECESSITY AND THAT TURKISH ACTION DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVASION, FOR IF
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IT HAD, TURKS WOULD HAVE TAKEN WHOLE ISLAND. DEMIREL THOUGHT THAT CARAMANLIS WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS ANSWERS.

3. DEMIREL WAS PLEASED THAT CARAMANLIS HAD NOT PUT FORWARD

SPECIFIC IDEAS ON CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR WHICH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT YET PREPARED. ACCORDING TO DEMIREL, CARAMANLIS HAD SPOKEN OF GREEK PUBLIC OPINION WANTING AN EARLY SOLUTION, BUT HIS PRESENTATION DID NOT CONVEY IMPRESSION OF GREAT URGENCY. DEMIREL HAD EXPLAINED TO CARAMANLIS HIS NEED TO PREPARE THE GROUND WITH TURKISH POLITICIANS AND THE MILITARY. HE THOUGHT CARAMANLIS HAD UNDERSTOOD THIS.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF POSITIVE ASPECT OF MEETING, CARAMANLIS HAD AT ONE POINT SAID: "WE WILL BECOME FRIENDS," AND HE HAD MENTIONED TO ESENBEL AFTER THE MEETING THAT GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD MAKE AN AGREEMENT THIS TIME THAT WOULD LAST LONGER THAN THAT OF ZURICH.

5. RE CYPRUS, DEMIREL HAD SUGGESTED TO CARAMANLIS THAT TWO SIDES FIRST DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTION OF A NEW STATE AND THAT OTHER ASPECTS WOULD IN TIME FIT INTO THIS AGREEMENT. ON THE AEGEAN, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED THAT GREEK AND TURKISH EXPERTS WOULD MEET JUNE 18 TO DISCUSS HOW THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE ICJ. THERE WOULD ALSO BE EXPERT MEETINGS ON AIR SPACE, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AIR CORRIDOR OVER NORTHERN GREECE.

6. IT WAS DEMIREL'S IMPRESSION THAT CARAMANLIS IS BEHAVING AS A REALIST AND IS A MAN WITH GOOD SENSE WHO IS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND DEMIREL'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

7. IN REPLY TO HARTMAN'S QUESTION, ESENBEL SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO TIMETABLE SET FOR PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID THAT, AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THE GREEKS IN THEIR DISCUSSION WITH TURKS IN BRUSSELS DID NOT BRING UP THE QUESTION OF THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT REFERENDUM OF JUNE 8.

8. AT END OF MEETING ESENBEL STRESSED THAT IN HIS VIEW
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THERE COULD BE NO CYPRUS SETTLEMENT UNTIL ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY HAD BEEN LIFTED. IF HE HAD REMAINED AS FOREIGN MINISTER THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS POLICY. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT THIS WAS DEMIREL'S POSITION AS WELL. KISSINGER

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